

FOR RELEASE: August 9, 2000

Congressman Paul's "Free and Low-Cost Prescription Drug" Program Starts with a Bang *Port Lavaca Seniors Benefit from New District Program*

Victoria, TX - On Monday, Representative Ron Paul launched his new district-wide "Free and Low-Cost Prescription Drug" program at the Port Lavaca Senior Citizen's Center. More than 30 seniors attended the workshop to explore options to reduce their monthly prescription drug bills, or, in some cases, eliminate them altogether. Paul said the large turnout leaves him encouraged about future workshops across the district. "This program is designed to provide immediate assistance to seniors who are struggling to pay for the medications they require," Paul said. "After seeing the positive results from our first visit to a senior citizen's center, I am very excited about continuing the program throughout the district and providing assistance to those in need." The "Free and Low-Cost Prescription Drug" program is Paul's new district effort designed to make eligible seniors aware that many drug companies have programs offering prescription drugs at little or no charge to individuals who cannot afford them. Representatives of Congressman Paul will assist seniors in filling out the paperwork necessary to participate. After conducting the workshop in Port Lavaca, a representative met personally with each senior in attendance to address specific cases. A bilingual translator was available to assist Spanish-speaking seniors. Paul said last week that the "Free and Low-Cost Prescription Drug" program was created to supplement his "Pharmaceutical Freedom Act" (HR 3636), which is sweeping legislation aimed at permanently lowering prescription drug costs by promoting a true free market for pharmaceuticals. The Act provides a tax credit for prescription drug costs, removes barriers to importing pharmaceuticals, and protects Internet pharmacies from costly federal regulations. "The 'Pharmaceutical Freedom Act' ensures that millions of American seniors have access to affordable pharmaceutical products," Paul stated. "Furthermore, from the initial response to the 'Free and Low-Cost Prescription Drug' program in Port Lavaca, I am confident that by the end of the summer we will help hundreds of seniors in the 14th district find immediate relief from the skyrocketing cost of medications." The "Free and Low-Cost Prescription Drug" program continues on Wednesday, August 9th at 11 a.m. at the Seadrift Senior Citizen's Center. Questions concerning the program should be directed to Jackie Gloor at 361-576-1231.

